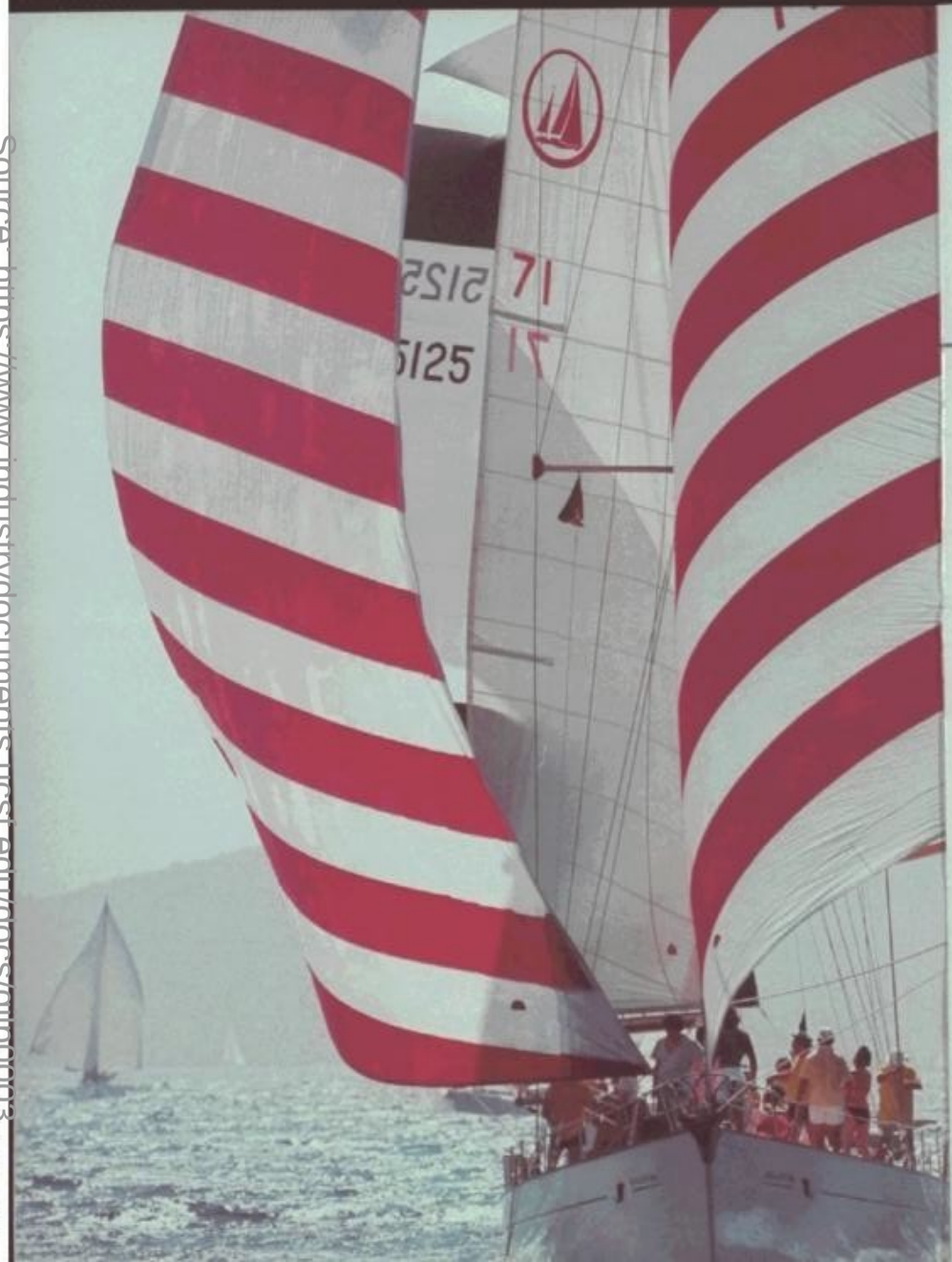
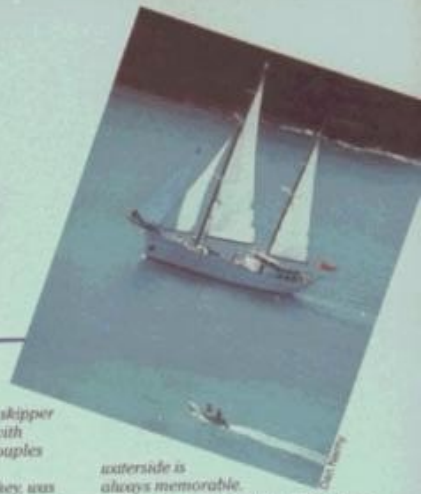


Dan Nenny

DREAM CHARTERS

Sailing a Yacht in Paradise



Dan Nenny

by Brian M. Fagan

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I have sailed past medieval fortresses and modern resorts in the Mediterranean, heeled gently to the Caribbean trade winds, and dropped anchor in the peaceful lagoons of remote Pacific islands.

All this, however, is hardly unique; other travelers have done the same, and why not? Today a seasoned sailor can "bareboat," or rent a sailing yacht or powerboat, almost anywhere in the world. Even an avowed landlubber can charter a luxury yacht.

Turkish Delight

Turkey is perhaps the most exotic and romantic place to sail. The scenery is spectacular, with hundreds of miles of coastline to explore. There are ancient cities, Greek and Roman ghost towns, as well as fields of crumbling marble and statuary.

Travelers who book through Nicholson Yacht Charters generally fly to Athens, then pick up their boat at Rhodes; those who charter through the Moorings fly to Istanbul before going on to Fethiye for their boat.

At Fethiye the fleet ranges from 32-foot craft to roomier 40s, 43s, and 51s. The latter, which cost from $2,786 to $4,641 a week (depending upon the season), plus $75 a day for a skipper (an addition I highly recommend), can accommodate up to ten passengers but are most comfortable with just six. The Moorings does not offer a provisions package. Part of the fun, however, is buying food in seaside villages and dining in restaurants on the Turkish coast.

Nicholson charters include breakfast and lunch and crews in their weekly rates. A 49-foot wooden yawl comfortable for one couple comes with two meals daily and a skipper for $2,735; a 56-foot ketch with crew and meals for three couples costs $6,335.

Fethiye, in southwest Turkey, was built upon the ruins of Telmissus, a city dating back to 400 B.C. With its new marinas and more traditional amenities, it's a good place to stop even if one isn't chartering through the Moorings.

Those who charter through Nicholson will find that their departure point on Rhodes lies less than 15 miles from the Turkish coast. A 16th-century citadel broods over the nearby port at Marmaris, which is famous for its seafood restaurants.

The aptly named Turquoise Coast stretches along Turkey's southern shores, to the east of the main chartering bases. A favorite destination of boaters is the great city of Olympia, whose ruins lie near a beach between Finike and Antalya.

If I were to pick my favorite spot in Turkey, though, it might be Kusadas, close to the Greek island of Samos. The shopping for leather outerwear and carpets is terrific, and a meal at waterside is always memorable.

Kusadas is also conveniently close to Ephesus, which was Asia Minor's most important metropolis 19 centuries ago. There are well-preserved ruins in this classical town.

Heading back toward Marmaris and Fethiye, yachtsmen stop at Bodrum. Nestled under the Crusader Castle of St. Peter, this town was built by the Knights of Rhodes.

Sts. Barts and Martin

Come winter, the charterer turns to the Caribbean. St. Martin, Anguilla, St. Barts, and Antigua: These eastern Caribbean islands are separated by open ocean where the trade winds blow strong and true.

On St. Martin, which is shared by the Dutch and French, boaters can enjoy some good eating and duty-free shopping before heading out to sea. Bahamas Yachting Services, Nicholson, and Sun Yacht Charters have superb charter fleets

Dan Nenny

Cocktail time aboard the crewed charter yacht *Valdivia* at Carlyle Bay, Antigua (right); a full view of the *Valdivia* (above); a dandy base for a nautical vacation, the *Sealestial* (opposite page), sails billowing, is on her way to St. Martin.

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/gjpc003

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